

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 AF-10 NEA-11 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 OMB-01 ABF-01

TRSE-00 ACDA-19 DRC-01 AEC-11 SCI-06 /205 W

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R 012342Z FEB 74

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2580

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMZMBASSY PARIS 9716

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 376

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM UN UR

SUBJ: REDUCTION OF MILITARY BUDGETS (ROB) EXPERTS GROUP

REF: STATE 021277

1. MISOFF PER REFTEL REINFORCED WITH SCALABRE (FRANCE) REQUEST THAT FRENCH RECONSIDER THEIR DECISION NOT TO SEND EXPERT TO ROB STUDY GROUP. SCALABRE, WHO HAD FULL REPORT JAN 31 MEETING IN WASHINGTON, PROMISED TO SEND TELEGRAM TO PARIS FEB 1 CONVEYING US VIEWS. HE DID NOT APPEAR HOPEFUL GOF WOULD CHANGE ITS MIND, BUT STRESSED THAT FRANCH HAD NOT AND WOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO DISSUADE UK OR ANY MEMBER OF EC-9, OR US, FROM SENDING AN EXPERT.

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2. WE ALSO SPOKE TO BRITISH, JAPANESE, BELGIANS, AND ITALIANS URGING PARTICIPATION.

3. BRITISH, WHO ALSO WERE FULLY INFORMED ON WASHINGTON MEETING, UNDERSTAND OUR POINT OF VIEW BUT MAY CONFINE THEMSELVES TO URGING LONDON TO MAKE ITS DECISION IRRESPECTIVE OF WHAT OTHER COUNTRIES DECIDE.

4. IJIMA (JAPAN) TOLD MISOFF HE WAS ALREADY PREPARING TO SEND CABLE TO TOKYO URGING GOJ TO MOMINATE AN EXPERT, AND OUR NEW ENCOURAGEMENT STRENGTHENS HIS MISSION'S CONVICTIONS.

5. MERENNE (BELGIUM) SAID BELGIUM HAD BEEN INVITED TO PARTICIPATE BY SECRETARIAT AND WAS ACTIVELY ATTEMPTING TO RECRUIT AN EXPERT. IT MIGHT ENCOUNTER SOME DIFFICULTY IN FINDING THE RIGHT PERSON HOWEVER. FRENCH REFUSAL TO TAKE PART WOULD NOT AFFECT BELGIAN PLANS, PARTICULARLY SINCE FRENCH HAVE MADE IT CLEAR TO BELGIANS THAT NO QUESTION OF EC-9 SOLIDARITY IS INVOLVED. BELGIUM WOULD IWSH TO GET COMMUNITY APPROVAL FOR ITS PARTICIPATION BUT THOUGHT THIS WAS PURE FORMALITY. IF UK SHOULD ALSO DECLINE, MERENNE THOUGHT BELGIUM MIGHT HAVE SOME DOUBT ABOUT GOING FORWARD. HE ACCEPTED FULLY US APPROACH TO WHOLE PROBLZM, LAMENTING THAT SOME OF THE NON-ALIGNED PARTICIPANTS, SUCH AS ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON, COULD HARDLY BE CONSIDERED EXPERTS AND SAID HE HAD MADE THIS POINT TO SECRETARIAT.

6. MIGLIUOLO (ITALY) SAID ITALY HAD ALSO BEEN APPROACHED BY SECRETARIAT BUT HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO BRING ROME AROUND. IN GIVING SECRETARIAT PRELIMINARY NEGATIVE REPLY, ITALIAN MISSION HAD SAID THAT IN ANY CASE IT DID NOT WISH TO GET IN THE WAY OF BELGIUM, WHICH IT UNDERSTOOD WAS INTERESTED. MISOFF POINTED OUT TO MIGLIUOLO THAT IF OUR EFFORTS TO OBTAIN REVERSAL OF FRENCH POSITION

FAIL, WAY WILL BE OPEN FOR STILL ANOTHER WEO EXPERT UNDER SECRETARIAT'S

PRESENT FORMULA. DIFFICULTY SEEMS TO BE IN ITALIAN DEFENSE MINISTRY, AND MIGLIUOLO SUGGESTED THAT US MILITARY OFFICERS IN ROME COULD PERHAPS CONVINCE THEIR CONTACTS TO SEE THE ADVANTAGE OF A STRONG WESTERN REPRESENTATION IN THE EXPERTS GROUP.

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7. AMB SCHAUFEELE CALLED ON MEXICAN AMB GARCIA ROBLES AND MADE POINTS AS INSTRUCTED IN REFTTEL. GARCIA ROBLES DID NOT COMMIT HIMSELF REGARDING TERMS OF REFERENCE OTHER THAN TO ASSURE US MEXICAN EXPERT WOULD PROMOTE AN OBJECTIVE STUDY CONSISTENT WITH THE REMARKS MADE BY GARCIA ROBLES IN THE PLENARY DISCUSSION OF THE ROB QUESTION LAST FALL. HE ADDED THAT IF SECRETARIAT IS UNABLE TO FILL QUOTA OF 16 USING PRESENT APPROACH OF WORKING THROUGH GOVERNMENTS IT MIGHT SIMPLY HAVE TO REACH OUT DIRECTLY TO INDIVIDUALS AS IT DID IN CASE OF ESCAR STUDY.

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